



# BEACON

Vol. LV / No. 36

September 7, 2026

**A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ**

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## God Uses Water to Divide Good from Evil

*Dub Mowery*

God has used, and still uses water, to divide good from evil. The Bible speaks of five dividing lines with water. *Divide* means “to separate for the purpose to detect ownership, authority, and liberty.” It is used in all three ways in the five different ways in which God has used water to divide good from evil. We will now example the five ways in which God used water as a dividing line.

### The Flood Divided Sinful Men from the Righteous

We are reminded that mankind in ancient times became very wicked that it repented the Lord that He had made man. Of all the people living prior to the Great Flood that completely covered the earth only Noah and his family were righteous in the sight of God.

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made

them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD (Gen. 6:4-8).

Only eight souls of all humanity living at that time were saved in the ark. Noah was a preacher of righteousness but was only able to influence his own family.

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly (2 Pet. 2:5).

Noah acted in faith as directed by the Word of God.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Heb. 11:7).

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17).

God spoke directly unto Noah. Today, He speaks unto us by way of His inspired Word, the Bible (1 Pet. 4:11).

### The Red Sea Separated God's People from the Egyptians Who Enslaved Them

Through the providence of God, Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob, was taken as a slave down into Egypt, and, in time, found favor with the Pharaoh then reigning. 1. His father Jacob and the other members of his family were allowed to come down into Egypt were 70 in number (Exo. 1:5).

They soon increased in number to the point they became a nation within the Egyptian nation.

Another Pharaoh came into power who did not know of the great work God had done through Joseph interpreting the previous Pharaoh's dreams and preparing for the great famine. The new Pharaoh made slaves of the Israelites. By way of Moses, ten plagues were brought upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh released them. He later changed his mind and pursued after them.

God separated the Red Sea to allow the children of Israel to pass over on dry land. After the Israelites had done so, Pharaoh's army pursued after them. The Lord then allowed the waters of the Red Sea to come upon the Egyptian army, and they drowned in the sea (Exo. 14). This was God's means of delivering the Israelites from their bondage.

#### The Jordan River was the Dividing Line Between Naaman and Cleansed of His Leprosy

Naaman was a captain in the Syrian army who had been successful in sending his military against the Israelites and bringing back many prisoners.

1. Naaman had leprosy! A young Israelite maiden who had been captured served Naaman's wife as a servant. The young lady spoke of a prophet in Israel who could clean Naaman of his leprosy. When this was made known unto him he sent unto Israel to obtain the service of the prophet to heal him.

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. *Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and*

*be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean (2 Kin. 5:9-14).*

2. At first, when Naaman learned he was to dip in the River Jordan to be healed of his leprosy, he rebelled. His servants encouraged him to adhere unto what the prophet Elisha told him to do. Acting more sensibly he obeyed the command and was completely healed of the terrible disease. He then gave praise unto God:

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused. And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD (5:15-17).

#### God Used the Water of the Pool of Siloam for a Blind Man Who Washed and Received His Eyesight

A man who had been born blind provided an opportunity for Jesus to prove He had the power to heal. This gave evidence He was indeed the Son of God.

Jesus had the power to heal the physically handicapped and those with diseases. Our Lord spit on the ground and mixed it with the dirt and made clay out of it. He then put the clay on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The man did precisely as the Lord

told him and he gained eyesight for the first time in his life.

This was a test of his faith to believe in our Lord and obey Him. All the Lord's commands are tests for us to obey Him without reservation. Many want to follow their own way instead of submitting unto the will of the Lord. Yet, God's ways are above ours. Through the prophet Isaiah God declared:

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, And my thoughts than your thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9).

#### Baptism is the Dividing Line Between a Person Who is Lost or Saved

Many reject the essentiality of being immersed in water into the names of the Godhead for the remission of their sins. Nevertheless, Jesus, Himself, taught an alien sinner must be baptized to be saved spiritually. The Great Commission was initially given to the apostles but is to last until the end of time (Mat. 28:18-20).

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).

One of the weakest arguments I have ever heard against doing what Jesus said for the purpose of baptism is that in the latter part of verse 16 nothing is said about being condemned if one is not baptized, only if they do not believe. Those who make such a silly argument are not thinking straight. What was to be preached? The Gospel of Christ! What happens if those who hear it, believe it, and are baptized. Jesus declared they would be saved! Yet, they will turn around and say nothing is said about being condemned if they are not baptized. Of course not, that is not necessary, if they do not believe the Gospel, then they are not going to be baptized. Here is a practical illustration that further illustrates this truth: "He that eats food and digests it shall live physically, but he

who does not eat food shall die." It can readily be seen if one does not eat food he will not have anything to digest. So, it is not necessary to say, "But he who does not eat food and digests it shall die."

There are many passages of Scripture in the New Testament which reveal baptism is essential for our salvation. Six times in the New Testament the Lord connected baptism and salvation together. Without exception, baptism always preceded salvation. "Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Mark 1:4). "Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Luke 3:3). "He that believe and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). "Repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us" (1 Pet. 3:21).

Even so, there are those who still want to argue with you against baptism to be saved. I accept the Scripture, not their false accusation. Many will be eternally lost because they wanted their own way, not the Lord's.

Being immersed in water for the remission of one's sins is the supreme test of faith. Sadly, many fail the test by failing to do so! Do not be one of them, if you have not been baptized for the remission of your sins then do so now!

*Deceased*

Make plans to attend  
the  
Gospel meeting  
with  
Gilbert Gough  
Oct 4 – 8

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Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

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### Defender and Beacon

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## Sick

### Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Phyllis Brantley

## Please Remember

### September 20

Birthdays and Anniversaries Get-together will be held in the zone room after the afternoon service.

### September 30

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.

## Weekly Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

## Bellview Church of Christ

**Bishops:** Paul Brantley  
Michael Hatcher

**Minister:** Bill Busch  
Tim Cozad